

Water For The Whole Lost River Valley

If you agree with us that there is serious inequity in the use of the water in our drainage basins We would like you to join together with others in a broad coalition of concerned citizens There have been a number of individuals and small groups who have attempted to get more just and proper distribution of this precious resource Some of us believe that the water is a part of all of us who live in this valley, those who only have a residence as well as every farm regardless of size We don't think it wise to attack each other, but rather to come together for the good of all

Things That Disturb Us

- 1 The lowering of the ground water aquifer (Domestic and community wells going dry)
- 2 The dry river bed
- 3 The failure of The Idaho Department of Water Resources to manage the water within Basin 34
- 4 No watch dog commission to verify that all water deliveries are accurate

What Has The Cost To Residents Been

- 1 Many residents and some communities have had their water wells fail and had to drill domestic wells deeper
- 2 Real estate values have drastically declined
- 3 Springs and wetlands have dried up
- 4 Crops have been lost
- 5 The environment has been harmed
- 6 The beauty and quality of life in the valley has deteriorated in a major way
- 7 Jobs and opportunities for individuals have been lost

Our Goals

- 1 To bring pressure on Idaho Dept. of Water Resources to enforce water laws within our Valley
- 2 To establish a Critical Ground Water Management District / Area
- 3 To attempt to restore the River and Wetlands and quality of life where we live
- 4 Elect leadership to carry out our goals

Coalition for Water

P O Box 53

Arco, Id 83213

Join the Coalition for Water

We want everyone possible to join with us. The more participants the more clout and greater impact on agencies.

Will your household help?

We are asking each individual household to contribute \$25.00, or more if you feel led to do so, for a start up fund. This fund will be used for any monetary expense incurred in publicizing the issues and presenting evidence for our case. The fund will be set up in a local Bank. You will receive a signed receipt for your contribution.

No one in the coalition will receive any salary.

- Yes we want to do our part. \$25.00 ____ \$50.00 ____ \$ ____

Name _____

Address _____

Town _____

Phone # () _____

Mailing Address

Coalition for Water

P. O. Box 53

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originally projected. In fact, the cost increases were putting our meeting a

MAY 17 2001

The Big Water Give Away

Editor,

Your water (domestic and irrigation) has just been impacted! Over the past couple of years approximately twelve people from the Big Lost River Valley have been involved in a process of negotiations concerning "General Provisions 1-6 for Basin 34". Unfortunately, this process had ended in provisions that are very detrimental to everyone below the Mackay Dam and significantly advantageous to those people above the dam. The agreement that was made (by the few parties involved) will hurt every domestic and irrigation water user from the Mackay Dam on down.

Until this year water was to be allocated according to law as set forth in the original UC (Utah Construction and Abbott) Decree back in 1923. Unfortunately, this group resulted in eliminating the UC decree by being a part of the settlement conferences. The changes were very one-sided and will result in a loss of water to all of us below the Mackay Dam. Because surface water through natural streams is the only way to significantly recharge the groundwater, we can count on the water table dropping and our wells going dry, and our decrees being called much sooner for all future dry years, because we just made changes to the laws governing water distribution in Basin 34 that are devastating. Everything agreed to during those settlement conferences negatively impacts your water as you have known and used it in the past if you live below the Mackay Dam. If this decision is allowed to stand, your water rights will be forever changed.

People above the Mackay Dam gained a lot. Those of us at the conference actually gave 7500 inches of everyone's water below the Mackay Dam to everyone above the Mackay Dam. Now a year 2000 water decree above the dam is better than any right below the dam

because they can NEVER be shut off.

What did people below the Mackay Dam get? Fleeced! People below the dam, people in parts of Custer County, all of Butte County and everyone within the Big Lost River Irrigation District has lost "big time" with this process. The judge has ruled that the court will not rubberstamp the recommendations or agreement "to the extent that they are contrary to law". However, in order for him to determine if they are contrary to law, people have to do something. That something is an appeal to the court. If the judge's recent decision is not appealed, and these new general provisions stand, the UC decree will be forever lost. Your elected BLRID Directors took an oath of office to protect the interests of over 400 landowners in the irrigation district. However they were not part of this settlement conference, nor was the BLRID attorney. We all must call immediately to our BLRID Directors and insist that an emergency meeting be scheduled and that this decision (Case Number 39576) be immediately appealed by BLRID. Don't let anyone tell you that this is no big deal. This is a huge deal. If any of you have questions as to what these changes are and how they affect all of us, you can call me at 524-4985 in the evening after 5:00. Do not be swayed to take "no" for an answer.

In addition, it seems to me that Butte County and the City of Arco and Butte City should also join in. The judge has ruled and the only way to stop what has happened is to appeal in accordance with "Idaho Appellate rules". Appellate rules have a specific time limit for an appeal. I have been told that time is 35 days from the date of the decision, which means this appeal must be filed before June 12, 2001.

Sincerely,

Matea Huggins McCray

Mackay's young people

Enjoys paper

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10 Dave Pitt

Tim/Jennifer

PUBLIC MEETING

**THE GROUND WATER LEVEL
IN THE BIG LOST RIVER BASIN
IS IN CRISIS AT AN ALL
TIME HISTORICAL LOW
WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!**

- YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!!**
- COME TO THE MEETING & BRING OTHERS**
- JOIN US AND PARTICIPATE IN A PLAN OF
ACTION IN OUR ATTEMPTS TO RESTORE
THE BIG LOST RIVER.**

SEPTEMBER 18

8:00 P.M.

**HIGH SCHOOL
AUDITORIUM**

BIG LOST RIVER RESTORATION COALITION